

# The Middlebury Register.

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## THE MIDDLEBURY REGISTER.

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TERMS.

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## POETRY.

### "How Beautiful is Earth."

By Mrs. S. H. RICHMOND.

Oh God! how beautiful is earth,

In sunlight or in shade,

Her forests with their waving arch,

Her flowers that gem the glade.

Her hillsides, white with fleecy flocks,

Her fields with grain that glow,

Her sparkling rivers deep and broad,

That through the valley flow.

Her crested waves that dash the shore,

And lift their anthem loud,

Her mountains with their solemn brow,

That woo the yielding cloud.

Oh God! how beautiful is life,

That thou dost lend us here,

With tinted hopes that line the cloud,

And joys that gem the fair.

With creeds and hymns of soother young,

And tread of youthful feet,

That scarce in their elastic bound,

Bow down the grass-flowers sweet.

With brightness round the pilgrim's path,

Who, at the set of sun,

Beholds the golden gates thrown wide,

And all his work well done.

But if this earth, which changes fair,

This life to death that leads,

Are made so beautiful by Him

From whom all good proceeds.

How glorious must that region be,

Where all the pure and blest,

From chance, and fear, and sorrow free,

Attain eternal rest.

### The Blind Boy.

They tell me the flowers are beautiful

And that they are very sweet,

For I inhale their fragrance,

When I crawl from under my feet.

They say the sunset is gorgeous

And the rainbow very grand,

Oh, would that I could see them,

And the stars when they nightly stand.

My pastor says I surely shall

When I leave this mundane sphere,

I know not how it would be, but

I would gladly see them there.

How shall I know, when I see them,

Will the angels introduce me,

And tell me all their names?

Our Father, give me patience,

Though heavy be the rod;

O, help me to be still, and know,

And feel that Thou art God!

## MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Providence R. I. Journal.

### Uncle Sam.

The cant or vulgar name of the United States government; sometimes called Brother Jonathan. It is used at John Bull in England. Mr. Frost, in his Naval History of the United States, gives the following account of the origin of the name:

"Immediately after the last declaration of war with England, Elbert Anderson of New York, then a contractor, visited Troy, on the Hudson, where was concentrated, and where he purchased, a large quantity of provisions, beef, pork, &c. The inspectors of these articles at that place were Messrs. Ebenezer and Samuel Wilson.

The latter gentleman (invariably known as 'Uncle Sam') generally superintended in person a large number of workmen, who on this occasion were employed in overhauling the provisions purchased by the contractor for the army. The casks were marked 'E. A.—U. S.'—This work fell to the lot of a facetious fellow in the employ of the Messrs. Wilson, who, on being asked by some of his fellow-workmen the meaning of the mark (for the letters U. S. for United States were then almost entirely new to them), he did not know, unless it meant Elbert Anderson and Uncle Sam—alluding exclusively, then to the said 'Uncle Sam' Wilson. The joke took among the workmen, and passed currently; 'Uncle Sam' himself being present, was occasionally rallied by them on the increasing extent of his possessions. P. 297.

Many of these workmen, being of a character denominated 'food for powder,' were found shortly after, following the recruiting drum, and pushing towards the frontier lines, for the double purpose of meeting the enemy, and of eating the provisions they had lately labored to put in good order. Their old jokes accompanied them, and before the first campaign ended this identical one first appeared in print; it gained favor rapidly, till it penetrated and was recognized in every part of the country, and will, no doubt, continue so while the United States remain a nation."—*Ibid.*

Mr. Wilson died in Troy, New York, in August, 1854, at the age of 84 years; and the Albany Argus, in noticing his death, referred to the circumstances above stated, as the origin of the popular sobriquet of Uncle Sam.

For I had loved my country since  
My eye teeth filled their sockets,  
My Uncle Sam I reverence,  
Particularly his pockets.

—J. R. Lowell, *Biglow papers.*

### BROTHER JONATHAN.

The origin of this term as applied to the United States States, is given in a recent number of the Norwich Courier. The

editor says it was communicated by a gentleman now upwards of eighty years of age, who was an active participant in the scenes of the Revolution. The story is as follows:

When General Washington, after being appointed commander of the army of the Revolutionary war, came to Massachusetts to organize it and make preparation for the defence of the country, he found a great want of ammunition and other means necessary to meet the powerful foe he had to contend with, and great difficulty to obtain them. If attacked in such a condition, the cause at once might be hopeless. On one occasion at that anxious period, a consultation of the officers and others was had, when it seemed, no way could be devised to make such preparation as was necessary. His excellency, Jonathan Trumbull, the elder, was then Governor of the State of Connecticut, on whose judgment and aid the General placed the greatest reliance, and remarked, "We must consult 'Brother Jonathan' on the subject." The General did so, and the Governor was successful in supplying many of the wants of the army. When difficulties afterwards arose, and the army was spread over the country, it became a byword, "we must consult Brother Jonathan." The term Yankee is still applied to a portion, but "Brother Jonathan" has become a designation of the whole country as John Bull has for England.

—The first view of the Salt Lake Valley is thus plausibly described by the *Times* correspondent:

"Descending the Big Mountain, whose summit was enveloped in clouds, we struck into Emigration Canon, by which opening, at last, we passed the last spire of the Washington range. And now burst upon our view, as we came upon the high bench overlooking the Valley of Great Salt Lake, one of the most enchanting landscapes. For days we had been imprisoned among the mountains, whose rugged grandeur and sublimity had almost become tiresome. Suddenly, as we emerged from the fastnesses, the great valley lay out before us, with its teeming fields of grain, and other quiet evidences of reformed civilization. The change is sudden and striking, forcing the most practical mind to the observation of contrasts which, under other circumstances, would be noticed only by the artist.

Great Salt Lake City certainly possesses a charming location. Its site is directly upon the mountains, which come down in very steep ridges to a great bench of plateau, overlooking the bottom of the valley. Indeed the city, which sits upon this sloping bench, comes to within a mile or two of the mountain's base, where Emigration Canon opens upon the plain, while the northeastern corner of the settlement is scarcely a quarter of a mile from the cliffs. The traveler coming out of Emigration Canon first looks down upon the broad street of Great Salt Lake some twenty or thirty miles distant, although it appears to be not more than a quarter of that distance. As he rides on a little further, the City itself, with its neat buildings, luxuriant shade-trees, and teeming gardens gradually appear, until at last the whole city lays out before him at a glance, with all its streets as plainly marked as though it were a map lying upon the table before him. On the bottom of the distant lake rests a great island, from which rises another mountain, lofty almost as those which we have just passed; while to the northward and southward, the valley spreads out far as the eye can reach, without a hill to obstruct the view. West of the city, running through the centre of the valley, the Jordan courses its way."

THE EFFECTS OF TOBACCO.—The Dublin Medical Press asserts that the pupils of the Polytechnic School in Paris have recently furnished some curious statistics bearing on tobacco. Dividing the young gentlemen of that College into two groups—the smokers and non-smokers—it shows that the smokers have proved themselves far inferior to the others. Not only in the examinations on entering the school are the smokers in a lower rank, but in the various ordeals that they have to pass through in a year, the average rank of the smokers has constantly fallen, and not inconsiderably, while the non smokers have enjoyed a cerebral atmosphere of the clearest kind.

—A country mayor promised to attend a meeting, but broke his engagement. When remonstrated with he excused himself by saying that he had been attending another meeting, and then plaintively added, "I couldn't come, you know can't be in two places at once; I was at amphibious!"

CUBA.—The fertility of the soil of Cuba is well known. The labor of cultivation is small, and the profits well nigh fabulous. It is said that some planters, who have several estates, have an income of eight hundred thousand, or a million of dollars annually. On new ground, sugar which in Louisiana requires to be planted once in three years, will produce its annual crop for nine or ten years, so that the planter has nothing to do but reap the harvest every year. But notwithstanding these extraordinary inducements to cultivate the soil, by far the larger portion of the island is yet a wilderness. A published statement gives only one-twentieth part of it as under cultivation. Some part of the residue is mountainous and uncultivable, but a very considerable portion is as fertile as that which yields so enormous a revenue. In addition to the sources of agricultural wealth, there are rich copper and coal mines, and the forests abound with mahogany, cedar and other choice woods.

There are some serious drawbacks to a residence on the island, however, the principal of which are the enervating climate and the yellow fever. A minor but by no means despicable evil is the "mosquito," whose sting is very poisonous to strangers producing a high degree of inflammation. The hands, wrists and ankles swell up and suppurate, making great sores, which leave pits almost as deep as those of the small pox, and much larger. After a residence of two years, however, the sting is scarcely felt, and the poison produces little or no effect. This has been accounted for by the idea that the enervating climate renders the blood so thin and poor that it is no longer capable of the same degree of inflammation. —*Boston Journal.*

### SCENES IN SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICE.

—The prisoner in this case, whose name was Dicky Swivel, alias 'Stove Pipe Pete,' was placed at the bar, and questioned by the Judge to the following effect: Judge.—Bring the prisoner into court. Pete.—Here, I am bound to blaze, as the spirits of turpentine said when he was all a-fire. Judge.—We will take a little of the fire out of you. How do you live? Pete.—I ain't particular, as the oyster said when they asked him if he'd be roasted or fried. Judge.—We don't want to hear what the oyster said nor the spirits of turpentine either. What do you follow? Anything that comes in my way, as the locomotive said when he run over the little nigger. Judge.—Don't care anything about the locomotive. What's your business? Pete.—That's various, as the cat said when he stole a chicken off the table. Judge.—That comes nearer the line, I suppose. Pete.—Altogether in my line, as the rope said when it was choking the pirate. Judge.—If I hear any more absurd comparisons I will give you twelve months. Pete.—I'm done, as the breakfast said to the cook. Judge.—Now sir your punishment shall depend on the shortness and correctness of your answers. I suppose you live by going around the docks. Pete.—No, sir, I can't go around the docks without a boat, and I haven't got none. Judge.—Answer me! How do you get your bread? Pete.—Sometimes at the baker's and sometimes I cat tater. Judge.—No more of your stupid insolence. How do you support yourself? Pete.—Sometimes on my legs and sometimes on a chair, (chair.) Judge.—I order you to answer this question correctly. How do you do? Pete.—Pretty well I thank you, Judge. How do you do? Judge I shall have to consult you. Pete.—Well, you're committed yourself first, that's some consolation.

—OSTRACHES.—The garden of the Hamman, at Algiers, possessed two years ago four ostriches, which were the object of considerable attraction on account of the ravenous manner in which they devoured the cakes and other articles of food offered them. The number has since then increased to fourteen. In 1857 a first attempt at hatching produced only one young one. The second attempt produced nine, from twelve eggs laid. Another is now sitting, and the result is looked for with considerable interest. The result obtained, which is due to the persevering efforts of the director of the establishment, leads to the almost certainty that this gigantic bird may at no distant period become a regular inhabitant of the poultry-yard. The profits which might arise from the breeding of ostriches are not to be despised. In the first place, a single female will give thirty kilograms of eggs; next, the feathers, are every day becoming more and more scarce in the market; and, lastly the flesh, by the bird being brought into a domestic state, would become good food. As to the keep of the ostrich, it is not very expensive, its food being composed of fresh grass, vegetables, and corn. —*Gazette of the Messenger.*

PREDICTIONS FOR THE YEAR.—The following sagacious predictions are made for the year 1858:

Through the whole course of the year, whenever the moon wanes the nights will grow dark.

On several occasions during the year, the sun will rise before certain people discover it, and set before they have finished their day's work.

It is quite likely that when there is no business doing many will be heard to complain of hard times, but it is equally certain that all who hang themselves will escape starvation.

If bustles and hoops go out of fashion a church pew will hold more than three ladies.

If dandies wear their beards there will be less work for the barbers, and he who wears moustaches will have something to sneeze at.

There will be many eclipses of virtue, some visible, and others invisible.

Whoever is in love will think his mistress a perfect angel, and will only find out the truth by getting married.

Many delicate ladies, whom no one would suspect, will be kissed without telling their names.

There will be more books published than will find purchasers, and more bills made than will find payers.

If an increment of a fat office should die there will be a dozen feet ready to step into one pair of shoes.

If a young lady should happen to blush she would be apt to look red in the face, without the use of paint; if she dreams of a young man three nights in succession it will be a sign of something; if she dreams of him four times, or has the tooth-ache, it is ten to one she will be long time in getting either of them out of her head.

Dinners and entertainments will be given to those who have plenty to eat at home,